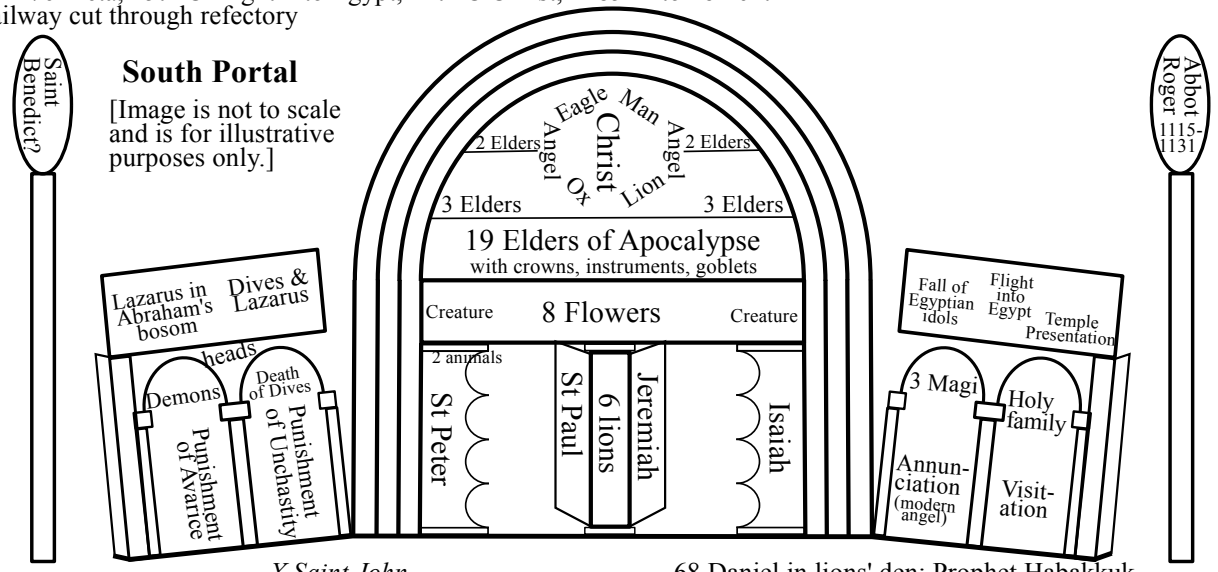
Moissac L'Abbaye St-Pierre

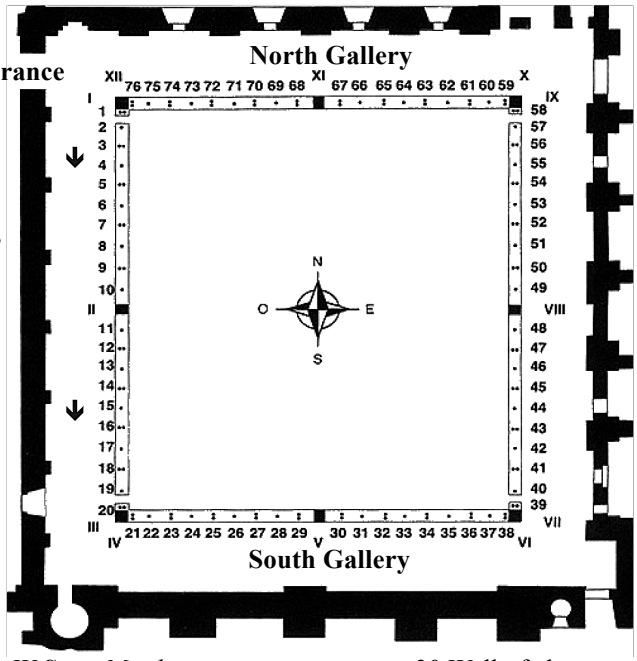
- legend that it was founded by King Clovis after defeating Visigoths in 506
- records show founded by St Didier, Bishop of Cahors mid 7th Century
- raided by Moors & Norsemen
- 1030 roof collapsed, 1042 fire; 1047 Cluniacs put in charge to reform monks
  ==> Durand of Bredon from Cluny was made 1st abbot of Moissac in 1047, later he was bishop of Toulouse; increased pilgrimages
- new monastery built 1100 - 1230
- only bit of original church is 1180s fortified bell tower (crenellations, archer gallery); upper room has vaulted ceiling + 12 windows
- center of W gallery has marble pillar with inscription from cloister founding in 1100, commissioned by abbot ANSQUITIL
- 12th C roughly 100 monks lived here under rule of St Benedict; copied manuscripts
- nave has 1476 Pieta, 15th C Flight into Egypt, 12th C Christ, 1485 Entombment
- 19th C railway cut through refectory

South Portal

[Image is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.]



Cloister Capitals



West Gallery

I Saint Philip
1 Abraham's sacrifice
2 Glorification of the cross
3 Acanthus leaves
4 Birds in combat
5 Daniel in lion's den; annunciation to shepherds
6 Acanthus leaves
7 Monster with trunks & bows
8 Resurrection of Lazarus
9 Palms
10 Imaginary characters & animals
II Saint Simon
11 Coronation of David by Samuel
12 Rampant plant decoration
13 Birds & wild animals
14 Acanthus leaves
15 Beatitudes
16 Lions in combat & human faces
17 Cain & Abel
18 Rampant plant decoration
19 Ascension of Alexander?
20 David & Goliath
III Saint Bartholomew
21 Herod's feast, beheading of John
22 Birds in tree-like plants
23 City of Babylon
24 Birds in combat
25 Nebuchadnezzar's dream
26 Martyrdom of St Stephen
27 Acanthus leaves
28 David & angel musicians
29 City of Jerusalem
30 Well of abyss
31 Symbols of Evangelists
32 Woman of Canaan & centurion
33 Good Samaritan
34 Temptation of Christ
35 Vision of St John in Patmos
36 Transfiguration of Christ
37 St Peter's imprisonmnet and release
38 Baptism of Christ
VI Saint Paul

East Gallery

VII Saint Peter
39 Samson & lion of Gabatta
40 Martyrdom of Ss Peter & Paul
41 Rampant plant decoration
42 Original sin
43 Acanthus leaves
44 Martyrdom of St Lawrence?
45 Christ washing disciples' feet
46 Palms
47 Lazarus and the rich man
48 Gryphons fighing & grasping heads in claws
VIII Durand de Bredons
49 Figures seizing eagles by neck
50 Marriage in Cana
51 Rampant decoration & pinecones
52 Adoration of the Magi; massacre of the Innocents
53 Foliage & animal muzzles
54 Acanthus leaves
55 Martyrdom of St Saturnin
56 Acanthus leaves
57 Martyrdom of Ss Fructueux, Augure & Euloge
58 Annunciation & Visitation of Mary
IX Saint James
59 Angels slaying dragons
60 Eagles
61 Rampant plant decoration
62 Two miracles of St Benedict
63 Imaginary birds fighting
64 St Peter healing paralysed man
65 rampant plant decoration
66 Celestial Court
67 Miraculous catch
68 Daniel in lions' den; Prophet Habakkuk
69Arrival of Crusaders in Jerusalem?
70 Rampant plant decoration
71 Symbols of Evangelists
72 Birds fighting
73 Three Hebrews in furnace
74 Story of St Martin
75 Rampant plant decoration
76 Jesus & woman of Samaria
XII Saint Andrew
X Saint John

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Sources:
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